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General Assembly

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Seventy-third session
Sixth Committee

# Allocation of agenda items to the Sixth Committee

## Note by the Secretariat

1. At the 3rd plenary meeting of its seventy-third session, held on 21 September 2018, the General Assembly took decisions pertaining to the allocation of agenda items (see A/73/252), including to the Sixth Committee (see annex).

2. The Committee's attention is drawn to the relevant parts of sections III and IV of the report of the General Committee (A/73/250) concerning the agenda of the Main Committees and to the recommendations on the organization of the session contained in section II of the same report. Those recommendations were also approved by the General Assembly at its 3rd plenary meeting.

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# Annex

## Allocation of items to the Sixth Committee

1. Election of the officers of the Main Committees [item 5].

### F. Promotion of justice and international law

2. Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission [item 79].
3. Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its fifty-first session [item 80].
4. United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law [item 81].
5. Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its seventieth session [item 82].
6. Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts [item 83].
7. Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives [item 84].
8. Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization [item 85].
9. The rule of law at the national and international levels [item 86].
10. The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction [item 87].
11. Protection of persons in the event of disasters [item 90].
12. Strengthening and promoting the international treaty framework [item 91].

### H. Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations

13. Measures to eliminate international terrorism [item 111].

### I. Organizational, administrative and other matters

14. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly [item 123].
15. Programme planning [item 137].
16. Administration of justice at the United Nations [item 147].
17. Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country [item 167].
18. Observer status for the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States in the General Assembly [item 169].
19. Observer status for the Eurasian Economic Union in the General Assembly [item 170].
20. Observer status for the Community of Democracies in the General Assembly [item 171].

21. Observer status for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands Secretariat in the General Assembly [item 172].

22. Observer status for the Global Environment Facility in the General Assembly [item 173].

23. Observer status for the New Development Bank in the General Assembly [item 174].

24. Observer status for the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea in the General Assembly [item 175].

25. Observer status for the European Public Law Organization in the General Assembly [item 176].

26. Observer status for the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank in the General Assembly [item 177].

27. Observer status for the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries in the General Assembly [item 178].

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**Sixth Committee**

# Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

## Note by the Secretariat

1. The attention of the Legal Committee (Sixth Committee) is drawn to the following provisions of General Assembly resolution 72/313, as highlighted in the first report of the General Committee (A/73/250), which was considered by the Assembly at its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2018:

(a) Paragraph 20 of the resolution, in which the General Assembly reaffirmed existing relevant mandates related to the improvement of the working methods of the Main Committees, including section C of the annex to resolution 58/316, paragraphs 7 to 13 of resolution 59/313, cluster III of the annex to resolution 60/286 and resolution 69/321, in particular paragraphs 16 and 17 thereof (see A/73/250, para. 13);

(b) Paragraph 22 of the resolution, in which the Assembly requested each Main Committee to further discuss its working methods at the beginning of every session, and invited the Chairs of the Main Committees to brief the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly during the seventy-third session on any best practices and lessons learned with a view to improving working methods, as appropriate (ibid., para. 15);

(c) Paragraph 23 of the resolution, in which the Assembly requested the Chairs of the Main Committees to organize handover meetings between the outgoing and incoming bureaux to exchange views on outcomes and the upcoming agenda, and invited the Chairs of the Main Committees to present a report to their successors on best practices and lessons learned (ibid., para. 16);

(d) Paragraph 27 of the resolution, in which the Assembly emphasized that the General Assembly and its Main Committees, at the seventy-third session, in consultation with Member States, should continue their consideration of and make proposals for the further biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items on the agenda of the Assembly, including through the introduction of a sunset clause, with the clear consent of the sponsoring State or States, taking into account the relevant recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group (ibid., para. 9);

(e) Paragraph 33 of the resolution, in which the Assembly recalled rules 153 and 154 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and encouraged the Chairs



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of the Main Committees and the Secretary-General to ensure observance of those rules, within their respective mandates;

(f) The relevant provisions of the resolution concerning strict adherence by each speaker to the time limits in the Assembly and recommending the "all protocol observed" principle, especially when very limited time is available for debate (ibid., para. 49);

(g) Paragraph 44 of the resolution, in which the Assembly reiterated its invitation to the President of the General Assembly and the Chairs of the Main Committees, in consultation with the General Committee and Member States, as well as to the Secretary-General, to enhance the coordination of the scheduling of meetings of the Assembly, including high-level meetings and high-level thematic debates, with a view to optimizing their interactivity, effectiveness, and distribution throughout the session (ibid., para. 30);

(h) Paragraph 48 of the resolution, in which the Assembly decided to establish the pattern for the rotation of the Chairs of the Main Committees for the forthcoming 10 sessions of the General Assembly, namely, from the seventy-fourth to the eighty-third session. The rotation for the Sixth Committee is contained in the annex to the present document;

(i) Paragraph 50 of the resolution, in which the Assembly encouraged Member States to seek gender balance in the distribution of the Chairs of the Main Committees (ibid., para. 20);

(j) Paragraph 54 of the resolution, in which the Assembly encouraged Member States to make, to the extent possible, full use of the e-services provided by the Secretariat, in order to save costs, reduce the environmental impact and improve the distribution of documents, and, in that regard, requested the Secretariat to further improve, harmonize and, where appropriate, unify such services (ibid., para. 63).

2. At the same meeting, the General Assembly took note of:

(a) The fact that explanations of vote should be limited to 10 minutes; that, when the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee; and that delegations should exercise their right of reply at the end of the day whenever two meetings have been scheduled for that day and whenever such meetings are devoted to the consideration of the same item (ibid., para. 43);

(b) The fact that once the Assembly adopts a draft resolution or decision, it may no longer be co-sponsored. Likewise, when a Main Committee has adopted a proposal and recommends its adoption by the Assembly, this proposal may no longer be co-sponsored by a Member State (ibid., para. 48).

3. Also at the same meeting, the General Assembly approved the recommendation that points of order be limited to five minutes (ibid., para. 44).

## Annex

### Pattern for the rotation of the Chairs of the Sixth Committee

| Session | Regional group |
|---|---|
| Seventy-fourth | Eastern European States |
| Seventy-fifth | Latin American and Caribbean States |
| Seventy-sixth | Asia-Pacific States |
| Seventy-seventh | African States |
| Seventy-eighth | Asia-Pacific States |
| Seventy-ninth | Western European and other States |
| Eightieth | Asia-Pacific States |
| Eighty-first | Latin American and Caribbean States |
| Eighty-second | African States |
| Eighty-third | Western European and other States |